

40. Description of a New Lizard of the genus *Chalcides*,
from the Gambia, living in the Society's Gardens.
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The Society recently received from H.E. Capt. C. H. Armitage, C.M.G., a generous donor to its collection, a number of reptiles from the Gambia. Among these was a Lizard of the genus *Chalcides* which is evidently undescribed, and for which I propose the name of *Chalcides armitagei*, after its discoverer.

CHALCIDES ARMITAGEI, sp. n.

Snout more conical than wedge-shaped, but with distinctly projecting labial edge. Eye small. Ear-openings not larger than the nostril, on a line with the mouth. Nostril pierced mostly in advance of the suture between the rostral and the first labial. Supranasals united. Frontal longer than broad. Fourth labial entering orbit. Body very elongate. Sides of body not distinctly angular. Scales perfectly smooth, in 24 rows round the middle of the body. Limbs short tridactyle. Length of hind-limb not quite equal to distance between eye and fore-limb. Fore-limb equals in length distance between posterior border of orbit and snout. Tail shorter than head and body.

From snout to vent 119 millim.; tail 82 mm.

Great variation is to be found in the structure of the Lizards of the genus *Chalcides*, especially in the proportions of the limbs and body, and in the number of digits, where we find all stages of degeneracy, there being species with five, four, three, or even two fingers or toes. A linear arrangement based solely on the number of the digits would be unnatural, as I have attempted to show in a recent paper*. The shape of the snout, whether conical or wedge-shaped, is of importance in tracing lines of descent; this character being also taken into consideration, the species here described as new cannot be placed in the group *Ch. sphenopsiformis*, *delislui*, and *sepioides*, its position being intermediate between *Ch. mionecton* (with four fingers and toes, and 24 or 26 scales round the body), and *Ch. mauritanicus* (with two fingers and three toes, and 10 scales round the body).

* P. Z. S. 1920, vol. i. p. 77.